

Message Text

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62

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:HHJANIN:SEH

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P 172106Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 168760

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT:ASMARA ABDUCTIONS

REF: ADDIS ABABA 8502

1. DEPT. CONCURS WITH DESIRABILITY OF CENTRALIZING COMMUNICATIONS WITH KIDNAPPERS IN ASMARA AND ETHIOPIA RATHER THAN IN KHARTOUM OR ELSEWHERE. USE OF KHARTOUM IN TENNECO CASE AROSE ONLY WHEN IT PROVED IMPOSSIBLE TO USE ASMARA AS EFFECTIVE FOCAL POINT. USE OF ASMARA IN CISCO CASE WILL OF COURSE DEPEND ON COOPERATION OF EPMG.

2. CONCUR ALSO IN USE OF ETHIOPIAN COURIER IF RELIABLE PERSON CAN BE LOCATED WHO IS WILLING TO RUN THE CONSIDERABLE RISKS JOB MAY ENTAIL AND WHO IS ACCEPTABLE TO USG, EPMG AND INSURGENTS. WE WILL LOOK TO EMBASSY AND CONGEN FOR SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS AT APPROPRIATE TIME.

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3. DEPT. IS PREPARED TO EXPLORE ANY ALTERNATE CHANNELS

WHICH MAY HOLD PROMISE OF GETTING US IN TOUCH WITH KIDNAPPERS. EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA ARE POSSIBILITIES BUT, IN VIEW PAST FAVORABLE EXPERIENCE, SUDAN APPEARS THE BEST INITIAL CHOICE IF OTHER EFFORTS TO CONTACT KIDNAPPERS FAIL.

BEST ARGUMENT TO SOLICIT HELP FROM SUDAN AND/OR OTHER COUNTRIES APPEARS TO BE HUMANITARIAN PITCH THAT CISCO CAPTIVES ARE INNOCENT PEOPLE AND SHOULD NOT BE MADE PAWNS IN POLITICAL/MILITARY STRUGGLES BETWEEN ETHIOPIANS.

4. WE ARE REVIEWING TENNECO EXPERIENCE FOR IDEAS AND FOR CLUES ON POSSIBLE BEHAVIOR OF KIDNAPPERS.

5. EMBASSY AND DEPT. WILL BE IN BETTER POSITION TO MAKE MORE SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS WHEN WE LEARN WHO ABDUCTORS ARE AND WHAT DEMANDS THEY MAKE. KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, INSTRUCTIONS, COMMUNICATION LINES
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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